



News In-Print

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
Miguel de Benavides Library

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What's Inside

Professional Training and Development Committee	2
Linkages and Research Committee	2
Human Values Committee	3
Collection Development Committee	4
Community and Extension Services Committee	4
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee	5
Student Welfare and Services	6
Googling: tech tools for the Library	7
Padilla presents the UST Heritage Library at the Intramuros learning sessions	8
Creating your virtual library: innovative and creative ideas	10
Unraveling the story of "Trese" from pages to screen	10
NBDB and PBBY tackle inclusivity and diversity in children's literature	10
Virtual planning and team building @ MdBLib	11
Jose Angel and Diana's wedding: A love story unfolds	14
CEAFI Board of Trustees 2021-2023	16

New assistant to the Prefect of Libraries

Maria Cecilia D. Lobo



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Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. was born on January 6 in Laganes Iloilo. He finished his Bachelor in Philosophy from the Philippine Dominican Center of Institutional Studies, Sto. Domingo Convent, Quezon City, and obtained his Bachelor in Theology at the Ecclesiastical Faculties, University of Santo Tomas. For his post-graduate studies, he finished a Master of Arts in Library and Information Science at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Q.C. in 1998. Currently, he has just finished the academic requirements for his Doctorate Degree in History and Archaeology at Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain.

Due to his love for archival work, he decided to have hands-on training in Conservation and Preservation of Rare Materials at the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario – UST Heritage Library.

Fr. Gaspar was the former Archivist of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, Bahay Dominico. He is the 1st Filipino General Archivist of the Dominican Order from 2013 to 2019 in Curia Santa Sabina, Rome, Italy and he is one of the founders of the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivist of the Philippines (SEAP).

His assignment in UST has enabled him to perform various administrative tasks in the University. At present, he is the Asst. to the Prefect of Libraries, and recently added, his being the Acting UST Archivist. He is also the Regent of the College of Information and Computing Studies and a member of Saint Thomas Aquinas Priory.



Professional Training and Development Committee

Jonas T. Sahagun

The Professional Training and Development Committee aims to develop the library staff's skills, competencies, and professional qualities to enhance their work performance and increase job satisfaction. The Committee organizes seminars/trainings, team building, and other developmental activities. For the AY 2020-2021, the Committee conducted the following activities:

- Opened a Call for Topics/Papers last May 8, 2021 for all library staff. Four topic proposals were selected for presentation in the online 'In-house training';
- Organized two planning activities - the Pre-Planning activity held last October 23, 2020 and the Virtual Planning and Team Building held last July 28, 2021;
- Prepared four (4) virtual team building activities: 1) Personal Facts Guessing Game; 2) Show and Tell; 3) Picture Sharing; and 4) Virtual Escape Room;
- Informed the library staff of 56 relevant online trainings/webinars for the academic year. Participation in these training/webinars were monitored. All 31 librarians and 27 support staff attended at least two sessions of online trainings/webinars organized either In-house or by other departments/institutions.

The Committee also coordinated with librarians and professional library organizations such as the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI), and the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) regarding individual and institutional memberships for 2021. All 31 librarians have paid their membership dues for PLAI and 30 librarians renewed their membership with PAARL.

It is the hope of this Committee that these activities will help develop the professional growth of the UST Library staff. It aspires to provide more meaningful activities to achieve its goals.



Linkages and Research Committee

Raquel B. Lontoc

The Library Linkages and Research Committee assists in establishing, managing, and strengthening the Library's linkages and partnership with other research institutions by using the principle of reciprocity or beneficial sharing of resources. It also encourages, promotes, and supports research activities among library staff and users and assists them with their research needs.

For the AY 2020-2021, the Library has an existing partnership with the following Libraries and Institutions:

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|--|--|
| • Ambassador Manuel T. Yan Peace Resource Center (AMTYPRC) | • Dominican Network (DOMNET) Youth Group |
| • Asian Development Bank (ADB) | • International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) |
| • AIM World Bank DRC | • Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP) |
| • Ateneo de Manila University Rizal Library | • National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) |
| • Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) - Knowledge Resource Center | • Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians (PAARL) NET |
| • Catholic Education Association of the Philippines – NCR (CEAP-NCR Library Committee) | • UP Diliman – College of Science Library |
| • Consortium of Engineering Libraries of the Philippines (CELPH) | • UP Diliman – College of Engineering |
| • Consortium of Libraries for Ecclesiastical Studies | • UP Los Baños Library |
| • De La Salle University Library | • UP Manila Library |

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Intending to produce scholarly research studies, a group of librarians started and continued working on their research study which focuses primarily on the collaboration between teachers and librarians for the library's information literacy program. Likewise, to support the research needs of the Thomasian community, the Committee organized an online webinar entitled "ScienceDirect Best Practices." It aimed to enable participants to learn how to search for articles effectively, search for research collaborators, and find and understand research topics. The webinar gave special attention to the best practices in writing and publishing a research article. This was held on September 18, 2020, conducted by Mr. Johan Jang, customer consultant of Elsevier for Southeast Asia.

Additionally, The LRC Post (The Linkages and Research Committee Post), which aimed to share relevant library and research-related resources to the library staff using the email as its platform, has also started. The Committee also promoted free research webinars hosted by our partner providers and institutions to help support our library staff and users' research needs.

With the current enriched virtual mode of learning, the Committee hopes to provide more meaningful and valuable activities for the next academic year.



Human Values Committee

Arlene P. Matias

The Human Values Committee organizes activities that aim to strengthen the spiritual and moral well-being of the Library staff. The programs are anchored on the strategic objectives provided by the University.

The Committee is also responsible for the initiation, development, and implementation of programs that will guide the staff to firmly grasp the Thomasian identity thru the spiritual and social wellness program.

The following were the activities of the Committee for Academic Year 2020-2021:

- Library staff were encouraged to attend and participate in religious activities of the University such as *Misa de Apertura* held on August 12, 2020, and the *Paskuhan Mass* which was held last December 17, 2020;
- Recitation of the prayer before work and the Holy Rosary through the Public Announcement (PA) system whenever there is an onsite schedule;
- Monthly Mass for the birthday celebrators was held at the Santisimo Rosario Parish;
- Onsite celebration of Mass held on the following dates: November 16, 2020, December 3, 2020, January 20, 2021, February 18, 2021, and March 3, 2021;
- Forum on the lives of UST Patron Saints, St. Dominic, and St. Thomas Aquinas such as the following:
 - * "St. Dominic and the Dominican Spirit: growing closer to God in times of pandemic." The invited speaker was Fr. Wenifredo V. Padilla, III, O.P., STL-MA, SSL, held on August 28, 2020
 - * "Surviving the pandemic through the wisdom of Saint Thomas Aquinas." Speaker was Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., Ph.D. which was held on January 27, 2021
 - * "Fr. Miguel de Benavides, O.P. Fundador de la Universidad de Santo Tomas de Manila." Invited speaker was Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., held on June 11, 2021
- Recollection was promoted to encourage the Library staff to attend the online activity: The "Institutional Lenten recollection" which was held on March 19, 2021, with Recollection Master Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, O.P, and "Bearers of Easter" by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, D.D. held last April 23, 2021;
- The Committee also acted as a mediator for the Library in sponsoring the 3rd day virtual Rosary prayer for the 3 days Triduum Masses.

These activities enabled the Committee to fulfill its duty in nurturing the three Thomasian core values of Competence, Compassion, and Commitment.



Collection Development Committee

Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos

The Collection Development Committee is responsible for planning and building a useful and balanced collection of library materials based on the library clientele's information needs. The Committee strives to achieve its goals through the acquisition of library materials (printed books and journals, non-print materials, electronic resources, etc.).

For Academic Year 2020-2021, through the recommendation of the faculty members and the assistance of the library coordinators of the different colleges and departments, the Library was able to acquire 4,087 titles of printed books, 1,800 titles of e-books, 142 additional titles of e-journals, one online database (JoVe) and 158 titles of audiovisual materials.

The library also received 132 titles of theses and 39 titles of dissertations from the UST Graduate School and from the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic brings challenges, the Library ensures to provide the resources needed by the faculty and students that would support their academic and research needs.



Community and Extension Services Committee

Michelle M. San Gabriel

The primary responsibility of the Community and Extension Services Committee is to spearhead viable and efficient community development and outreach programs for the partner communities, focusing on providing financial or in-kind donations and conducting literacy and library-associated projects.

Due to the pandemic, the nature of the outreach activity is more on voluntary or in-kind donations. It is anchored on the advocacy of compassion and tasked to make sure that the implemented programs will deliver long-term benefits to the lives of the people in communities.

For AY 2020-2021, the UST Library followed the recommendations of the UST-SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office on items that can be donated to the Aeta children in Bamban, Tarlac. The said Office recommended two activities, one each term. For the first term, donations of basic school supplies; for the second term, basic pandemic kit. The target activities must be aligned to the KPI's.

Accomplished Activities:

A. Outreach Activities in Sitio San Martin and Sitio Santa Rosa, Bamban, Tarlac

First Term				
Nature of Activity	Month of Implementation	Person/s Committee/s Involved	Total Amount Collected	Beneficiaries
Donated basic school supplies: ballpens, crayons, pencils, coupon bonds, erasers, and plastic envelope bags	October 9-16, 2020-start of solicitation drive Dec. 4, 2020-turn-over to UST Simbahayan Community Development Office Jan. 24, 2021-turn-over to Sitio San Martin and Sitio Santa Rosa, Bamban, Tarlac	Library Administrators Extension Services , headed by <i>Michelle San Gabriel</i> Human Values headed by <i>Arlene Matias</i> Information and Communications Technology , headed by <i>Lejempf Flores</i>	P12, 650.00	100 Elementary Aeta students from Sitio San Martin and Sitio Santa Rosa

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Second Term				
Nature of Activity	Month of Implementation	Person/s Committee/s Involved	Total Amount Collected	Beneficiaries
Donated basic pandemic kit: facemask, face shield, vitamin C, alcohol, and tissue	March 8-15, 2021-start of solicitation drive The turn-over of these three sitios are pending.	Library Administrators Collection Development, <i>headed by Lourdes Fatima Ramos</i> Linkages and Research, <i>headed by Raquel Lontoc</i> Professional Development, <i>headed by Jonas Sahagun</i> Physical Facilities, <i>headed by Juanita Subaldo</i>	P15,700.00	100 Elementary Aeta students from Sitio San Martin and Sitio Santa Rosa

B. Cash Donation to Cottolengo Filipino, Inc.

The cash donation drive was held from December 11 -17, 2020. The total amount raised was P19, 250.00. The contributions came from the Library Administrators and members of the seven library committees. This was turned over to Cottolengo Filipino, Inc. by Ms. Diana V. Padilla, the assistant chief librarian. Thru this donation, we can help sustain the needs of the children in the said charity house.

C. Small Libraries Assisted

Small libraries had been assisted in organizing and managing their collections and services. Since March 8, 2020, we have not visited the seminary library of Our Lady of Manaoag, Pangasinan. Due to the enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila, the project is temporarily pending.

D. Tulong Tomasino

This project aims to give assistance either in cash or in kind as the need arises. Last Nov. 17-24, 2020, we were able to contribute to the Tulong Tomasino project of the University. The cash donation drive was for the victims of typhoon Ulysses. The library staff donated P11,600.00 deposited to the bank account of the UST-SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office.

Another cash donation drive for Mr. Carlo Basilio Lorenzo, a former San Lorenzo Ruiz scholar assigned in the Science & Technology Section. His family was a victim of a fire in Tondo, Manila last May 2021. A donation of P14,100.00 was deposited through the Gcash account of Mr. Basilio.

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver" – by Barbara De Angelis.

We hope people won't get tired of helping the least of our fellowmen, especially during this unprecedented time. Again, from the Committee on Extension Services - "thank you, and God bless us all!"



Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee

Lejempf V. Flores

To ensure effective performance of the employees, the Miguel de Benavides Library Information and Communications Technology Committee designed **Information Technology Awareness and Knowledgeability (InTAK)**. This project aims to develop the information technology skills of all library staff.

At the start of every semester, the Committee organizes at least one IT-related training, forum, seminar, or exposure activity. Six (6) trainings were held in AY 2020-2021 in coordination with the Educational Technology Center, General Reference and Information Section Librarians, Professional Training and Development Committee, and some publishers. InTAK also involved several librarians and staff who are involved in the Digitization project. There were three technicians and eight ICT personnel who attended ICT-related trainings this year.

The Committee also designed the **Library Information Technology Enhancement (LITE)**. This is a year-round project that focuses on enhancing IT equipment and services. The LITE was organized to renew software and hardware maintenance agreements properly with the library suppliers. For this academic year, we were not able to purchase IT Paraphernalia following the University's implementation of the Enhanced Virtual Mode of Teaching & Learning.

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For **Project B-LIS or Boost Library Information Service**, which aims to facilitate efficient delivery of equipment and eventually eliminate the problems encountered, we attended to 755 ICT-related issues thru phone, online message platform, or onsite. We were also able to deliver 73 requested equipment.

For the **Project LibPub (Library's Public Presence)**, the number of visits to our library website reached 193,133, while the Digital Library reached 53,880 visits. We also have 16,264 Facebook Followers; 715 and 605 followers on Twitter and Instagram, respectively.

Overall, it was a productive year. The Committee will continue to conduct activities to provide a more conducive learning and working environment for the library's visibility and exposure to all the library patrons and the Thomasian community.



Student Welfare and Services

Lady Catherine R. de Leon

Student Welfare and Services is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the library services and facilities are well enjoyed and maximized by the Thomasian students. It works collaboratively with the General Reference and Information Section, Circulation Section, and the Collection Development Committee. It provides Thomasian students with the different services and facilities to support their academic endeavors.

This Academic Year, the following are the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the data gathered:

- Number of utilized library resources/materials
This includes the number of books borrowed and the document delivery service. There was a total of 6,102 utilized library resources.
- Number of librarians who participated in online work assignments/tasks
Thirty-one (31) librarians participated in online work assignments/tasks.
- A total of 19, 957,508 e-resources log-ins had been recorded.
- 94% or only 349 sections out of 371 requested and attended the Freshmen Library Orientation.
- There was a total of 107 sessions conducted and attended Electronic Resources tutorials.
- For the online inquiries, a total of 5,022 were received and answered. The data came from queries thru library emails, social media accounts, and websites.

Googling: tech tools for the Library

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

Lib Talks



Last June 4, 2021, the Librarians Association of Quezon Province-Lucena, Inc. (LAQueP-LInc), in partnership with Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (MSEUF), organized a webinar entitled "**Googling: Tech Tools for the Library**." The objectives of the webinar are (1) to equip the participants with basic knowledge on Google applications for libraries and (2) to explore Google applications that can facilitate effective library services amidst the pandemic. Mr. Richard Alphege A. Ravalo, Reader's Services librarian of De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, was the speaker in the said event. His talk was divided into four parts: (1) Google applications, (2) Creative applications, (3) Other useful applications, and (4) Some tips, tricks, and ideas on how to tackle challenges along the way.

In the **Google Applications**, the speaker introduced the Google Apps as a suite of web-based collaboration applications. Each application can be accessed only if the user is connected to the Internet and has a Google account. Mr. Ravalo demonstrated how to create an account in Google for those who do not have one yet. He explained every application available in Google — from GMail, GMeet, Google Calendar, Google Keep, Google Maps, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Docs, Google Forms, Google Drive, and Google Classroom -- and how Google Apps encourages collaboration, that's why each application is integrated to the other.

The next part was the discussion on **Creative Applications**. Mr. Ravalo discussed the usefulness of the Canva application in creating posters, invitations, and other promotional materials. With a single application, he made a poster and a short video, and have them uploaded on various platforms such as Google Classroom and YouTube. That was how versatile the Canva application is. Aside from their official websites, libraries posted their activities in other social media applications such as Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram. Some libraries interestingly answered other libraries' thoughts and even shared ideas. He also gave tips, tricks, ideas, and inspirational stuff that can be done in Google Form aside from making quizzes and attendance. He showed their storytelling and '*bugtungan*' activities using the said application. Children can choose what would be the next scene of the story. They also have an option to see other endings if they opt to choose from other choices.

Before Mr. Ravalo ended the dialogue, he mentioned the four (4) Cs that he has realized after a year of distance learning and need to consider:

- **Communication** makes the work synchronized with each teammate and even with other departments.
- **Cooperation** is working together to reach a specific goal and helping each other grow.
- **Collaboration**, closely related to cooperation, is working together for a specific activity.

- **Creativity** is not being artistic per se but being able to think outside the box for activities and programs that can be applied to the library.

Right after the presentation, the speaker accommodated few questions from the attendees. Some of these questions answered during the open forum were the following:

- How much does Google institutional service account subscription cost?
- Using copyrighted images in Canva app
- How long would it take to create a full package of learning materials?

Mr. Ravalo clarified that Google does not disclose their rates even on their website, hence, the subscription cost would only be known if they will coordinate with the Google team. In using copyrighted images, if the creator is using a premium account, he does not need to mind the copyright since he is subscribed and even paying the fees. Nevertheless, suppose the creator only has a regular account, he can use the **Explore** tool in Canva since they provide free of charge photos that can be used publicly. Lastly, the time frame of the creation of full package of learning materials depends on the complexity of the topic, on what type of materials the educator wants to prepare since there are numerous tools that he can use, and how the educator wants to present the lesson — be it engaging, interactive, or open-ended.

Without a doubt, the webinar was a success since active participation was evident throughout the 2-hour session and the speaker was very accommodating in every question and have them explained in a detailed manner. A forum like this gives a glimpse of hope for non-artists, digital immigrants and refugees that they are not helpless teachers and librarians in an educational battlefield full of digital native learners.

Padilla presents the UST Heritage Library at the Intramuros learning sessions

Diana V. Padilla

Ms. Diana V. Padilla, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Library assistant chief librarian and the librarian in charge of the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario (AVdR) UST Heritage Library, was invited as a resource speaker in the Intramuros Learning Sessions Episode no. 62 via online with her talk entitled **The UST Heritage Library: A Timeless Treasure**. This took place on July 2, 2021 from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm.



A total of 287 attendees via Zoom and Facebook listened as Ms. Padilla discussed the brief history of the UST Library, and its special section, the AVdR UST Heritage Library. It was supported by a grant from the family of the late Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. and was named after their grandfather, Antonio Vivencio del Rosario, an outstanding Thomasian and the former Secretary-General of UST (1854-1866).

The section is considered as the depository of rare bibliographical collections accumulated through its 400 years of existence. It has been operating under the guidance of its vision and mission for 15 years since its inauguration in 2006. Since then, it has been carrying out noteworthy activities and helpful programs that promote the preservation and promotion of the Philippine cultural heritage through the Library's vast collection of old and invaluable bibliographic materials.

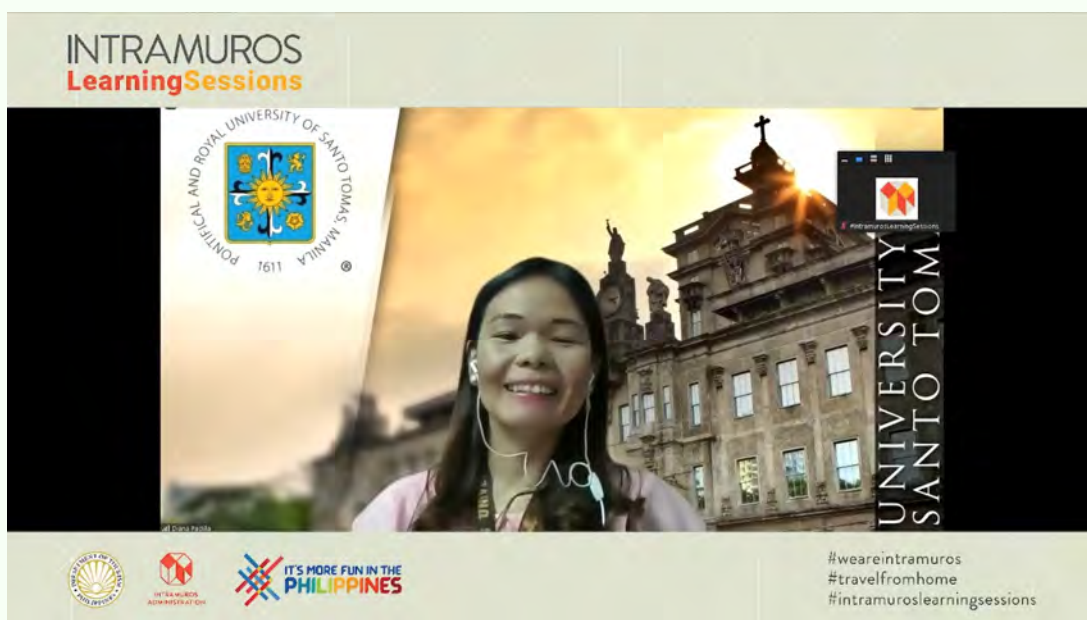
Ms. Padilla highlighted that the materials kept in the said section are priceless and timeless treasures not just by UST but the entire Philippines. The Heritage Library collections stand as privileged witnesses to the emergence of the country into nationhood through the last centuries, thus, it is a big commitment that these historical collections must be preserved and be made available to the public. To realize this, the Library undertakes major activities such as conservation, digitization, and publication of the catalogs of rare books. The said undertakings are part of the remarkable project called Lumina Pandit II (*Spreading the Light*), which is being supported by the UnionBank of the Philippines. It aims at the preservation of its rich heritage and sharing priceless collections to a wider world to improve excellence in teaching, research, and culture appreciation.

She also presented some of the significant books such as:

- **La Guerra (1492) or the Jewish War, by Josephus Flavius** - the oldest book in the UST Library and the only example of incunabula in the university;

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- **Biblia Sacra**, the Polyglot Bible printed by **Christopher Plantin** (1514-1589);
- **De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium, Libri VI (1543)**, by **Nicolaus Copernicus**. This volume of Copernicus “On the Revolutions of the Celestial Bodies” is from the first edition; and
- The first books printed in the Philippines in 1593 in which photos of the facsimile copies were presented: **Doctrina Christiana en Lengua Española y Tagala**, the original copy is found at the Lessing Collection, Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; **Doctrina Christiana en Letra y Lengua China**, the Vatican Library has the original copy; and the **Pien Cheng-Chao Ch’uan Shih-Lu or the Testimony of the True Religion**, the original is at the Biblioteca Nacional de España.



As for the rare periodicals, she shared information about its collections of *Libertas*, *Ang Kalayaan*, *El Ilocano*, *Gaceta Oficial*, and others.

Ms. Padilla said that the preservation of the Library's timeless treasures would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the University, its benefactors, and the Library Administration,

Librarians, and Staff. She added that the UST Library, particularly its Heritage section, will continue to open its doors to researchers and to all people who value the nation's history. UST Heritage Library is not solely for UST; it is for the whole nation.

**The Intramuros Learning Sessions (ILS) is the educational webinar series of the Intramuros Administration (IA). The IA is an attached national government agency under the Department of Tourism.*

Topics are interdisciplinary and cover themes related to Intramuros and Manila studies, Philippine studies, as well as cultural heritage studies. Pursuant to IA's charter, the ILS aims to contribute to the strengthening of the Filipino's national identity and sense of belonging and pride).

Creating your virtual library: innovative and creative ideas

Rose Anne Camille C. Dionisio

The **Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and Las Piñas (MUNPARLAS) Library Association, Inc.** in partnership with EBSCO organized a webinar last July 16, 2021, with the title "**Creating your Virtual Library: Innovative and Creative Ideas**" with the following objectives:

- to increase the Librarians' and Information Professionals' awareness of the concept of creating a vibrant and dynamic 'Virtual Library' where students can inquire, discover, read and listen, and increase their productivity and efficiency;
- to identify how Libraries can support the teaching and learning process in a virtual environment; and
- to determine practical and innovative ways and strategies in creating a 'Virtual Library' for different types of Libraries.

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Unraveling the story of "Trese" from pages to screen

Symon Lagao

Are you a fan of supernatural phenomenon or are you a folklore enthusiast? Then, you might probably have heard of **Trese**, a komik series written and illustrated by Filipino creators Mr. Budjette Tan and Mr. Kajo Baldisimo and first published in 2005. It tells the story of a female detective unraveling the crimes and mysteries of the supernatural realm featuring characters from various Filipino folklores and satire novels.

In celebration of the 12th Philippine International Literary Festival, the National Book Development Board (NBDB) of the Philippines held a webcast entitled "**Trese: from Komiks to Netflix.**" This was held on July 23, 2021 via Zoom.

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NBDB and PBBY tackle inclusivity and diversity in children's literature

Symon Lagao

The National Book Development Board (NBDB) of the Philippines and the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) organized the children's book summit on "**Inclusivity and Diversity in Children's Literature**" held last July 31, 2021. The summit commemorated the nationwide National Children's Book Month. It was attended by authors, illustrators, publishers, teachers, librarians, and other children's literature enthusiasts.

The children's book summit highlighted discussions on writing, illustrating, storytelling, publishing, analyzing, and making progressive children's literature. It opened dialogues on literary activism for young people, the nature of the younger generation, and criteria for selecting award-winning books, to name a few.

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Virtual planning and team building @ MdBLib

Chiara Maye M. Navarrete

On July 28, 2021, the Professional Development and Training Committee conducted a "**Virtual Planning and Team Building**" to give the librarians and support staff some good vibes and leisure time. The MdB Library used Zoom as its platform for this activity. It consisted of two sessions: the first part was team building and the second part was planning. Before the program officially started, the moderators for the activity, Mr. Jonas Sahagun, head of said Committee, and Ms. Diana Padilla, assistant chief librarian, prepared some icebreakers just to lighten up the mood. The activity officially began with a prayer and was followed by the welcome remarks of Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian. Mr. Sahagun presented the game mechanics. At the start, the moderators asked some icebreaker questions.

The following activities had been done:

- **"Personal facts guessing game."** Mr. Sahagun enumerated some personal information and the library staff guessed who he was referring to. Some personal facts mentioned were: how many pets they have, the size of their shoes, grade of eyeglasses, just to name a few.
- **"Show and tell."** This activity consisted of twenty-five participants who showed and talked about something they own or even something intangible such as their favorite clothes, a medal, or even a passion project. Some participants shared their drawings, family pictures, clothes, and school identification cards. After the second activity, the library staff had their health break where Mr. Sahagun and Ms. Padilla showed an AVP presentation called **"Balik-tanaw."**
- **"Picture sharing."** The participants shared some of their favorite and personal pictures and explained why they picked it. After the lunch break, Mr. Jonas prepared an icebreaker activity called **"Blurry images challenge."**

The last was called "Virtual Escape Room." This was a nerve-wracking activity because it really challenged the group mentally as well as their teamwork. There was a set of questions in each room and for you to escape that room you needed to answer the questions correctly.

After the activity, team planning started. The activities organized and the updates of the different committees were reported. The Virtual Planning and Team Building was concluded by Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., the assistant to the Prefect of Libraries.

Creating your virtual library... from Page 10

The speaker was **Mr. Jay Michael Diola**, MUNPARLAS officer, PAASCU accreditor, book creator ambassador, Apple teacher, Google certified educator level 2, and head librarian of De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) Library. Mr. Diola discussed various concerns in relation to creating a virtual library innovatively and creatively. The first talking point is the importance of going virtual, being at hand in the online world. Since classes were held online starting March 2020, DLSZ Library planned on how to continue their usual activities like storytelling and book character parade virtually. With the use of easily available phone cameras and online graphic design platforms like Canva, they created a simple character parade with the theme "League of Readers" where DLSZ librarians wore superhero costumes. With this, the Library attracts young readers and discover what their favorite superhero reads.

The second point that the speaker emphasized was the acronym **R.E.M.E.D.Y.**

- **Re-packaging** is to revamp and realign the services being offered in accordance with the current needs and situation of the users. In terms of libraries, during the pre-Covid days, librarians promoted the use of electronic books by having easy to scan QR Codes located in the lobby and having them self-checked out. Presently, they encourage library patrons to use printed materials with extended borrowing periods to have a lesser screen time.
- **Engaging activities** should be appropriate for all types of patrons, from digital immigrants and refugees to digital-native clients. Activities must be composed of things they want to do and what the curriculum needs them to do to make it more effective.
- **Money** is one of the major factors in creating a virtual library since electronic collection usually goes above half a million although there are some free, open access, and credible databases that can be found online. Also, government websites and other independent sources like Academia and Research Gate can be used in requesting a single article for academic purposes.
- **Experiencing** different models (physical and virtual libraries) may give options to various library patrons whether they want the traditional way or opt for the convenience brought online. Either way, library services will always be an essential part of learning.

- **Delivery of services** may be renamed but the ideas will be the same. As an example made by Mr. Diola, DLSZ's Grabrarian, a wordplay from the Grab (a company that offers food delivery and digital payments services via a mobile app) and the librarian, is like the Virtual Office and Ask-a-Librarian services that the MdbL offers which answers queries at any time possible.
- And for the letter **Y**, "**Yes, you can start a virtual library**" because of various free creative platforms available. For starters, Facebook and Google sites, with the help of creative online tools like Canva, can make a virtual library a one-stop-shop that comprises collection, programs and activities, and librarians. During the discussion of different available apps for creating a virtual library, a short, thorough demonstration using Minecraft has been made by Mr. Gerald Diño, a DLSZ HS librarian. They already pulled off the game-based virtual library since last school year so that students can still visit them and experience the actual feeling of going to the library even under community quarantine.

Mr. Diola shared another acronym that is **C.O.R.O.N.A.** which stands for

- **Collaboration** with the students and other departments to know how the library can serve them better
- **Outside the box activities** like Pilipit-dila (tongue twister) challenge during "Buwan ng Wika" which might be a fun activity for all ages in the community
- **Ready to fail** and make this failure a motivation to make better projects
- **Opportunities** disguised as bad news
- **Networking** with other libraries and professional organizations for a wider reach
- **Acquire** new learnings and keep re-learning

Right after the open forum, the Virtual Induction of 2021-2023 MLAI Executive Board and General Assembly of MUNPARLAS took place.

Unraveling the story... from Page 10

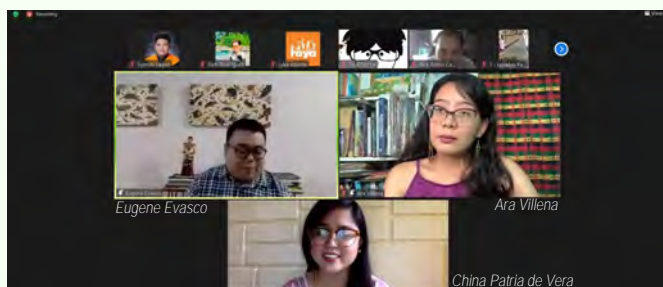


In photo are the invited speakers during the Trese webcast.

The webcast featured Budjette Tan, co-creator of Trese, Nida Ramirez, publisher, and Tanya Yuson, executive producer exchanged discussions and answered questions from aspiring Filipino content creators. When asked what advice to give for creators, they mentioned that it is important to ‘put passion in whatever you do and that rejection will always lead to another opportunity’. On matters of anime adaptation, they explained that Trese is a marvel in the industry as it was the first Filipino animated series to be produced by Netflix, a prominent online streaming platform. Likewise, the key persons in the creation of both the komiks and series are made up of Filipino talents. Both also received positive reviews from readers and viewers.

The webcast was intended to promote the writing and production of graphic novels and stories centered on Filipino culture. It was attended by hundreds of creators, illustrators, writers, publishers, and storytellers. Hopefully, more Filipino creators will continue to help build a culture of reading and authorship for the new generation of readers and viewers.

NBDB and PBBY... from Page 10



Speakers and several participants of the online summit in one of the panel discussions.

The keynote speeches were delivered by Mr. Randy Ribay, author of the book Patron Saints of Nothing, and Ms. Fran Alvarez, a notable illustrator and graphic artist. For the five plenary sessions, the speakers were:

- Ms. Pepper Roxas and Ms. Sophia Lee, who presented “Children’s Literature in the Diaspora”

- Mr. Christopher Carandang and Mr. Ireneo Demecais Jr., who discussed “Who Are We Creating For: Getting to Know Gen Z and Gen Alpha”
- Mr. Rey Bui and Mr. Jatón Zulueta spoke about “Promoting a Literacy of Care”
- Ms. Bernadette Neri, Ms. Ara Villena, and Ms. China De Vera conversed on “Literary Activism: Making Progressive Children’s Literature”
- Ms. Lina Diaz de Rivera and Ms. Dolores Carangui, who presented the “2021 National Children’s Book Awards Judges Talk About Their Choices”

The summit was immediately followed by a Storytelling Workshop and a Children’s Book Reviewing Workshop. Participants were advised to join a workshop of their interest.



Ms. Meniado as she talks about writing book reviews.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) was represented by Symon Lagao, assistant head librarian of the UST Senior High School Library. Mr. Lagao attended the summit and the book reviewing workshop. For this, the speakers were:

- Dr. Wennielyn Fajilan, who spoke about “Limang Diskurso ng Batang Naisasantabi sa mga Piling Picture Book”
- Ms. KB Meniado presented “Read, Review, Repeat: How We Can Share About the Books We Love”
- Ms. Nadia De Leon, who shared her experience with writing book reviews together with her 10-year old son.

The open forum allowed the participants to discuss book reviewing, challenges and issues of book reviews by children, visual literacy and intersemiotic translation as well as the role of teachers and librarians as catalysts for the proliferation of children’s literature and book reviews.

Indeed, it was timely and meaningful that the summit discussed reading and other relevant issues at this time where children are bound on their homes and have limited exposure to the reality. It is hoped that children’s books will allow them to journey on a sea of imagination while learning the veracity of life.

Jose Angel and Diana's wedding: A love story unfolds

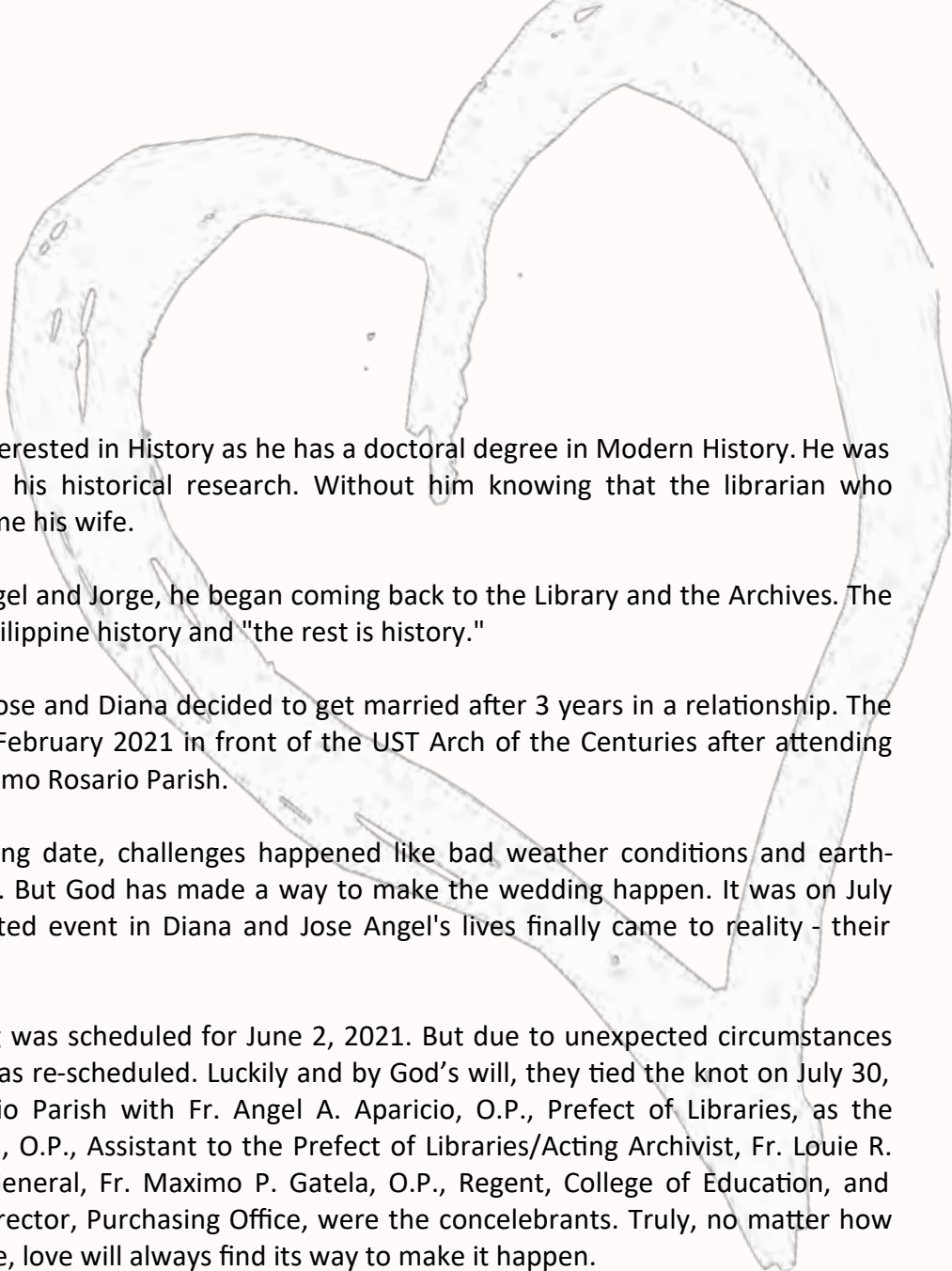
Lady Catherine R. de Leon



“Love comes to those who wait”

They say that no matter how long it takes true love is always worth the wait because it is a sign of unconditional love. Just like what happened to our dear Diana. It took her years to find Mr. Right, the love of her life -- Jose Angel, a Spanish diplomat who was assigned to work in Manila. In looking for a partner, Diana's non-negotiable condition is that he must be God-fearing. Jose Angel, aside from being handsome and smart, is indeed a God-fearing and loving person. He prays daily and goes to church every Sunday. All that Diane aspires for in a partner.

The University of Santo Tomas has been a witness to their love story, particularly the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library. Diana was the head librarian at the time Jose Angel visited the Library with Jorge Mojarro who is their common friend. Jorge scheduled a Library visit together with Jose Angel on January 12, 2018, the day they laid eyes on each other.



Jose Angel has always been interested in History as he has a doctoral degree in Modern History. He was looking for rare materials for his historical research. Without him knowing that the librarian who assisted him would soon become his wife.

After the short visit of Jose Angel and Jorge, he began coming back to the Library and the Archives. The couple shared an interest in Philippine history and "the rest is history."

Before the year 2020 ended, Jose and Diana decided to get married after 3 years in a relationship. The formal proposal happened in February 2021 in front of the UST Arch of the Centuries after attending the evening Mass at the Santísimo Rosario Parish.

Weeks before the new wedding date, challenges happened like bad weather conditions and earthquakes which happened twice. But God has made a way to make the wedding happen. It was on July 30, 2021, that the much-awaited event in Diana and Jose Angel's lives finally came to reality - their "Wedding Day."

Originally, the church wedding was scheduled for June 2, 2021. But due to unexpected circumstances brought by the pandemic, it was re-scheduled. Luckily and by God's will, they tied the knot on July 30, 2021, at the Santísimo Rosario Parish with Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, as the celebrant. Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries/Acting Archivist, Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., the Secretary-General, Fr. Maximo P. Gatela, O.P., Regent, College of Education, and Fr. George Phe Mang, O.P., Director, Purchasing Office, were the concelebrants. Truly, no matter how big the challenges and trials are, love will always find its way to make it happen.

I was very fortunate to be one of the couple's friends. I know Jose Angel will take care of my "amiga." I am so happy to see Diana finally found the right one for her. There may be lots of challenges that may come their way, but I know that with their love and trust for each other, things will turn out well. They both deserve to be loved and appreciated. No matter how long the searching and finding true love's journey is, the will of God will always prevail and definitely it will be worth the wait.

Best wishes and Congratulations, Diana and Jose Angel! My beloved amigos!

CEAFI Board of Trustees 2021-2023

Elein H. Geronimo

Last August 4, 2021, the College of Education Alumni Foundation, Inc. (CEAFI) had its first virtual induction of officers and board of directors. Two UST librarians are part of the Board of Trustees 2021-2023, namely, Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, UST chief librarian, who has been elected as treasurer, and Symon Lagao as Public Relations Officer (PRO).

Below are the newly-elected officers and board of directors of the Foundation:

President:	Evelyn Songco
Vice President:	Marilyn Cano
Secretary:	Ana Marie Fernandez
Treasurer:	Maria Cecilia Lobo
Auditor:	Cristina Sagum
Public Relations Officer:	Symon Lagao
Board of Directors:	Maria Mercedes Buendia
	Marielyn Quintana
	Loreto Sauz
	Evangeline Timbang
	Maria Cecilia San Juan
	Joyce Javier
	Pearl Villamarzo
	Emma Yeung
	Lily Chua

Last July 19, 2021, different committees such as Apostolate, Fellowship, Membership, Prayer, and Study, have also been created of which Ms. Lobo and Mr. Lagao are also part - the Membership Committee, and Fellowship Committee, respectively.

Our heartfelt Congratulations!

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